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| TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i> | Application Number | 09/977,802 | |
| | Filing Date | 10/15/2001 | |
| | First Named Inventor | Mark C. Lage | |
| | Group Art Unit | TBA | |
| | Examiner Name | TBA | |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | 4 | Attorney Docket Number | Lage-1 |

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| Firm or Individual name | David R. Padnes, Esq., Registration No. 28, 384 Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan Griffinger and Vecchione |
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Lage

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: Group Art Unit: TBD

Serial No.: 09/977,802

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: Examiner: TBD

Filed: October 15, 2001

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following paragraph before "Technical Field" on page 1 of the specification:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

A This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/240,893
filed on October 17, 2000, which is incorporated herein by reference.